Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 042023
ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
USIA-06 IO-13 /079 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/SE:JRRATIGAN:VSS
APPROVED BY C:MNIMETZ
EUR/SE:RCEWING
EUR:REBARBOUR
HA: KHILL
----------060420 170955Z /15
R 170105Z FEB 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 042023

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, SHUM, GR, TU, US

SUBJECT: GREEK REACTION TO HUMAN RIGHTS REPORTS

REF: ATHENS 1305 AND PREVIOUS

1. GREEK AMBASSADOR ALEXANDRAKIS, MEETING AT HIS REQUEST WITH COUNSELOR NIMETZ FEB 15, SAID GOG WAS "SHOCKED AND SURPRISED" WHEN IT COMPARED DEPT'S HUMAN RIGHTS REPORTS ON GREECE AND TURKEY. REPORT ON GREECE PRESENTED GOG "CLAIMS" RE ITS TREATMENT OF MOSLEM MINORITY IN THRACE, THEN NOTED "COMPLAINTS" OF "HARASSMENT AND MALTREATMENT", BUT DREW NO CONCLUSIONS. TURKEY REPORT, IN CONTRAST, DESCRIBED PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED BY MINORITY INSTITUTIONS,
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 042023

THEN CONCLUDED THAT ACTIONS WERE "HAPHAZARD" RATHER THAN DELIBERATE. SINCE GOG COULD NOT ASSUME DEPT WAS UNAWARE OF CONDITION OF GREEK MINORITY IN TURKEY, GOG WAS AFRAID EFFORT HAD BEEN MADE DELIBERATELY TO PLAY DOWN AND WHITE-WASH "SYSTEMATIC TURKISH EFFORTS TO EXTERMINATE" GREEK POPULATION IN TURKEY.

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

2. ALEXANDRAKIS CLAIMED THAT GIVEN THESE REPORTS GOG HAD NO ARGUMENTS WITH WHICH TO COUNTER "RISING TIDE" OF ANTI-AMERICANISM IN GREECE. GREEK PRESS WAS CLAIMING THAT, BECAUSE US HAS NOW RAISED THE QUESTION OF THRACE, GREECE

NOW FACES A TURKISH THREAT IN THRACE AS WELL AS ELSEWHERE.

4. NIMETZ POINTED OUT THAT REPORTS WERE DRAFTED, EDITED, AND RE-EDITED BY SEVERAL DIFFERENT OFFICES AT TECHNICAL LEVEL OF BUREAUCRACY AND SHOULD NOT BE REGARDED AS POLICY PAPERS. REPORTS REPRESENTED DEPT'S BEST ASSESSMENT OF SITUATION IN EACH COUNTRY, AND SENTENCE-BY-SENTENCE COMPARISON OF REPORTS FOR TWO DIFFERENT COUNTRIES WAS "NOT A VERY PRODUCTIVE EXERCISE." POSITION OF GREEK MINORITY IN TURKEY CONCERNS US AS HUMANITARIAN ISSUE, AND WE WILL CONTINUE TO OBSERVE AND TRY TO UNDERSTAND SITUATION. AMCONGEN ISTANBUL MAINTAINED CONTACT WITH BOTH GREEK ORTHODOX AND ARMENIAN PATRIARCHS AND CONTINUES TO DO SO. NIMETZ NOTED THAT LAW SPECIFICALLY REQUIRED DEPT TO INCLUDE COMPLAINTS AND ALLEGATIONS, AS WELL AS PROVEN VIOLATIONS, AND REPORT THEREFORE MENTIONED COMPLAINTS BY MOSLEM MINORITY. TURKISH REPORT REFERRED TO GREEK, KUFDISH JEWISH AND ARMENIAN MINORITIES. IF GOG WAS COMPLAINING ABOUT THE REPORT ON GREECE, NIMETZ COULD UNDERSTAND THAT. BUT NIMETZ REITERATED THAT WE DO NOT CONSIDER IT APPROPRIATE TO COMPARE ONE REPORT WITH ANOTHER. DEPT WOULD CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 042023

TAKE NOTE OF GOG COMMENTS ON FORMAT AND EDITORIAL APPROACH FOR NEXT YEAR'S REPORTS.

5. ALEXANDRAKIS REPLIED IT WAS A MATTER OF SUBSTANCE, NOT OF STYLE,AND PROVIDED NIMETZ WITH AIDE MEMOIRE ENUMERATING SPECIFIC ALLEGATIONS OF TURKISH HARASSMENT (COPIES WILL BE POUCHED TO ADDRESSEES). THESE INCIDENTS, SAID ALEXANDRAKIS, ATTEST TO THE "CONSISTENT TURKISH POLICY OF EXTERMINATION" OF THE GREEK MINORITY IN TURKEY.

6. NIMETZ RESPONDED THAT ALTHOUGH THE USE OF COUNTRY REPORTS WAS A RATHER IMPERFECT INSTRUMENT, HUMAN RIGHTS WAS A FUNDAMENTAL ELEMENT OF ADMINISTRATION'S FOREIGN POLICY, AND WE ARE HOPEFUL THAT SUCH REPORTS WILL FOCUS ATTENTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES WORLDWIDE, HEIGHTEN PUBLIC AWARENESS AND PERHAPS FOSTER GREATER GOVERNMENTAL INTEREST IN HUMAN RIGHTS. MEANWHILE, WE HOPE THAT ISSUES RAISED BY ALEXANDRAKIS WILL NOT BE BLOWN OUT OF PROPORTION. THESE WERE AND ARE TECHNICAL REPORTS, PREPARED BY THOSE AT TECHNICAL RATHER THAN POLITICAL LEVEL. THEY WERE NOT MEANT FOR THE SORT OF SCRUTINY GOG HAS CHOSEN TO GIVE THEM.

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

7. ALEXANDRAKIS SAID REPORTS SHOWED A "CLEAR ATTEMPT TO WHITEWASH" THE TURKISH RECORD AND A "DEFINITE, OBVIOUS" PRO-TURKISH BIAS. GOG WAS FORCED TO CONCLUDE THAT DEPT WAS PURSUING AN "ALL-OUT TILT IN FAVOR OF TURKEY."

8. NIMETZ DISAGREED, SAYING TURKS CERTAINLY DID NOT VIEW REPORTS IN THAT LIGHT. IN ANY EVENT, DEPT WOULD CERTAINLY TAKE COGNIZANCE OF FACTUAL MATTERS CONTAINED IN AIDE MEMOIRE AND ALEXANDRAKIS' COMMENTS AND WOULD BEAR THEM IN MIND AS WE CONTINUE TO MONITOR HUMAN RIGHTS DEVELOPMENTS.

VANCE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 042023
ORIGIN IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 /027 R

66011
DRAFTED BY:IO:GDALLEY
APPROVED BY:IO/SA:EMICHAL
EUR/SE:JMORTON
----------093957 181837Z /70
R 181000Z FEB 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
INFO USMISSION GENEVA 8121

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 042023

FOR USDEL TO HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

FOL STATE 042023 SENT ACTION ATHENS INFO ANKARA NICOSIA ISTANBUL FEB 17, 1978 REPEATED TO YOU QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 042023

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, SHUM, GR, TU, US

SUBJECT: GREEK REACTION TO HUMAN RIGHTS REPORTS

REF: ATHENS 1305 AND PREVIOUS

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

1. GREEK AMBASSADOR ALEXANDRAKIS, MEETING AT HIS REQUEST WITH COUNSELOR NIMETZ FEB 15, SAID GOG WAS "SHOCKED AND SURPRISED" WHEN IT COMPARED DEPT'S HUMAN RIGHTS REPORTS ON GREECE AND TURKEY. REPORT ON GREECE PRESENTED GOG "CLAIMS" RE ITS TREATMENT OF MOSLEM MINORITY IN THRACE, THEN NOTED "COMPLAINTS" OF "HARASSMENT AND MALTREATMENT", BUT DREW NO CONCLUSIONS. TURKEY REPORT, IN CONTRAST, CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 042023

DESCRIBED PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED BY MINORITY INSTITUTIONS, THEN CONCLUDED THAT ACTIONS WERE "HAPHAZARD" RATHER THAN DELIBERATE. SINCE GOG COULD NOT ASSUME DEPT WAS UNAWARE OF CONDITION OF GREEK MINORITY IN TURKEY, GOG WAS AFRAID EFFORT HAD BEEN MADE DELIBERATELY TO PLAY DOWN AND WHITE-WASH "SYSTEMATIC TURKISH EFFORTS TO EXTERMINATE" GREEK POPULATION IN TURKEY.

2. ALEXANDRAKIS CLAIMED THAT GIVEN THESE REPORTS GOG HAD NO ARGUMENTS WITH WHICH TO COUNTER "RISING TIDE" OF ANTI-AMERICANISM IN GREECE. GREEK PRESS WAS CLAIMING THAT, BECAUSE US HAS NOW RAISED THE QUESTION OF THRACE, GREECE

NOW FACES A TURKISH THREAT IN THRACE AS WELL AS ELSEWHERE.

4. NIMETZ POINTED OUT THAT REPORTS WERE DRAFTED, EDITED, AND RE-EDITED BY SEVERAL DIFFERENT OFFICES AT TECHNICAL LEVEL OF BUREAUCRACY AND SHOULD NOT BE REGARDED AS POLICY PAPERS. REPORTS REPRESENTED DEPT'S BEST ASSESSMENT OF SITUATION IN EACH COUNTRY, AND SENTENCE-BY-SENTENCE COM-PARISON OF REPORTS FOR TWO DIFFERENT COUNTRIES WAS "NOT A VERY PRODUCTIVE EXERCISE." POSITION OF GREEK MINORITY IN TURKEY CONCERNS US AS HUMANITARIAN ISSUE, AND WE WILL CONTINUE TO OBSERVE AND TRY TO UNDERSTAND SITUATION. AMCONGEN ISTANBUL MAINTAINED CONTACT WITH BOTH GREEK ORTHODOX AND ARMENIAN PATRIARCHS AND CONTINUES TO DO SO. NIMETZ NOTED THAT LAW SPECIFICALLY REQUIRED DEPT TO IN-CLUDE COMPLAINTS AND ALLEGATIONS, AS WELL AS PROVEN VIOLA-TIONS, AND REPORT THEREFORE MENTIONED COMPLAINTS BY MOS-LEM MINORITY. TURKISH REPORT REFERRED TO GREEK, KUFDISH JEWISH AND ARMENIAN MINORITIES. IF GOG WAS COMPLAINING ABOUT THE REPORT ON GREECE, NIMETZ COULD UNDERSTAND THAT. BUT NIMETZ REITERATED THAT WE DO NOT CONSIDER IT APPRO-CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 042023

PRIATE TO COMPARE ONE REPORT WITH ANOTHER. DEPT WOULD TAKE NOTE OF GOG COMMENTS ON FORMAT AND EDITORIAL APPROACH

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

FOR NEXT YEAR'S REPORTS.

5. ALEXANDRAKIS REPLIED IT WAS A MATTER OF SUBSTANCE, NOT OF STYLE,AND PROVIDED NIMETZ WITH AIDE MEMOIRE ENUMERATING SPECIFIC ALLEGATIONS OF TURKISH HARASSMENT (COPIES WILL BE POUCHED TO ADDRESSEES). THESE INCIDENTS, SAID ALEXANDRAKIS, ATTEST TO THE "CONSISTENT TURKISH POLICY OF EXTERMINATION" OF THE GREEK MINORITY IN TURKEY.

6. NIMETZ RESPONDED THAT ALTHOUGH THE USE OF COUNTRY REPORTS WAS A RATHER IMPERFECT INSTRUMENT, HUMAN RIGHTS WAS A FUNDAMENTAL ELEMENT OF ADMINISTRATION'S FOREIGN POLICY, AND WE ARE HOPEFUL THAT SUCH REPORTS WILL FOCUS ATTENTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES WORLDWIDE, HEIGHTEN PUBLIC AWARENESS AND PERHAPS FOSTER GREATER GOVERNMENTAL INTEREST IN HUMAN RIGHTS. MEANWHILE, WE HOPE THAT ISSUES RAISED BY ALEXANDRAKIS WILL NOT BE BLOWN OUT OF PROPORTION. THESE WERE AND ARE TECHNICAL REPORTS, PREPARED BY THOSE AT TECHNICAL RATHER THAN POLITICAL LEVEL. THEY WERE NOT MEANT FOR THE SORT OF SCRUTINY GOG HAS CHOSEN TO GIVE THEM.

7. ALEXANDRAKIS SAID REPORTS SHOWED A "CLEAR ATTEMPT TO WHITEWASH" THE TURKISH RECORD AND A "DEFINITE, OBVIOUS" PRO-TURKISH BIAS. GOG WAS FORCED TO CONCLUDE THAT DEPT WAS PURSUING AN "ALL-OUT TILT IN FAVOR OF TURKEY."

8. NIMETZ DISAGREED, SAYING TURKS CERTAINLY DID NOT VIEW REPORTS IN THAT LIGHT. IN ANY EVENT, DEPT WOULD CERTAINLY TAKE COGNIZANCE OF FACTUAL MATTERS CONTAINED IN AIDE MEMOIRE AND ALEXANDRAKIS' COMMENTS AND WOULD BEAR THEM IN MIND AS WE CONTINUE TO MONITOR HUMAN RIGHTS DEVELOPMENOS. VANCE UNQUOTE VANCE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, ANNUAL REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE042023
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JRRATIGAN:VSS
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780073-0712
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780240/aaaabhuk.tel
Line Count: 256
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 50e4a2d4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 ATHENS 1305
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3558633
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GREEK REACTION TO HUMAN RIGHTS REPORTS
TAGS: PINT, SHUM, GR, TU, US
To: ATHENS
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/50e4a2d4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014